

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14. (currently amended) MEMS apparatus comprising a base support; a planar support layer having a support surface; ~~hinge means~~ a plurality of hinges for suspending said support layer relative to said base support for movement about two axes, the plurality of hinges ~~hinge means~~ being disposed in a different plane from said support layer; ~~and a bulk element comprising a device layer having an optical surface; and a pedestal that extends between the support surface and the device layer supported on said support surface.~~

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 ~~further comprising a pedestal that supports the device layer on said support surface, said pedestal being~~ wherein said pedestal is sized to support the device layer a predetermined distance from the support layer.

16. (original) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the pedestal is sized to position the device layer a sufficient distance from the support layer to afford a predetermined angular movement.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 further comprising an intermediate support element disposed between the base support and the support layer, and

wherein the ~~hinge means~~ plurality of hinges comprises first hinge elements suspending the support layer relative to the intermediate support element, and second hinge elements suspending the intermediate support element relative to the base support.

18. (original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the intermediate support element comprises a gimbal.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 further comprising wherein ~~the hinge means comprises a frame, and wherein the plurality of hinges includes having~~ first hinge elements that suspend the frame relative to the base support for movement about a first axis and a second hinge element that suspends the support layer relative to the frame for movement about a second axis.

20. (original) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the second hinge element is connected to opposite sides of the frame and is disposed within an opening in the frame.

21. (original) The apparatus of Claim 19 further comprising a support plate connected to the second hinge and to the support layer.

22. (original) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the frame comprises a unitary structure formed of thin-film material.

23. (original) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the frame is dimensioned to be stiff relative to the first and second hinge elements.

24. (original) The apparatus of Claim 14 further comprising actuators disposed within a cavity in the base support for causing the support layer to move about said two axes.

Claims 25-32 (canceled).